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25 JUN 1952

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

Special Assistant to AD/RR

Preliminary Conference Between Officials of the Department of Commerce (Office of International Trade) and CIA on the Matter of International Trade Fairs

1. A meeting took place in Room 2519 H Building on 13 June 1952, which was attended by the following:

COMMERCE - F. Preston Forbes, Director, International Trade Development Division, Office of International Trade.

Z. B. Hyde, Chief, Fairs and Exhibitions Branch, Office of International Trade.

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2. The purpose of the meeting was to hear Mr. Forbes outline a program currently being formulated by the Departments of Commerce, State, NSA, and various commercial organizations for more active participation by the United States at International Trade Fairs scheduled to take place in Europe during the next year or so. Mr. Forbes stated that the program's first target would be the International Fair at Izmir, Turkey, scheduled to open on 20 August 1952, after which attendance is planned at some 10 - 12 of the more important International Fairs scheduled through the Spring of 1953. He mentioned that considerable interest was being exhibited by various commercial firms and that it was likely that American Export Lines would agree to transport the entire US exhibit to Turkey without charge. NSA Technical Assistance funds would probably be used again to defray the cost of transportation for the Commerce personnel selected to service future exhibitions. Approximately 20 persons would be required for staffing purposes, and in this connection Mr. Forbes said arrangements could be made to include one or more CIA personnel on the Fair staff if desired. Different staff personnel would be used at each Fair.


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Before closing, Mr. Forbes added that Commerce's comments on the undersigned's Survey of the Fairs and Exhibitions Branch was being finalized for transmission to this Agency. He pointed out that his Department's comments would contain a recommendation that continued support for CIA by the Fairs and Exhibitions Branch would necessitate a donation of either funds or personnel and that he hoped the Agency would give favorable consideration to this matter.

A question and answer period followed Mr. Forbes' talk. Considerable interest was displayed in connection with the possibility of direct CIA participation in the Commerce Trade Fair program and Mr. Forbes was assured that his proposal would be weighed carefully by all concerned.

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